The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

End Seen for Russian-Dominated WFTU; British Leader Protests Soviet Influence

Washington, D. C.—The virtual end of the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions was seen here as the result of recent developments in the international labor field.

The basis for the belief in the early demise of the federation is the recent action of Arthur Deakin, federation president and general secretary of the British Transport and General Workers Union, in accusing the federation of acting under Soviet control and refusing to call a conference of its executive bureau to discuss the European Recovery Program.

This action is taken to mean that the British Trades Union Congress, which affiliated with the CTU, will now throw its support behind the AFL-sponsored meeting of free trade unions of 16 European nations which is scheduled for next month in Brussels. It is expected that a new international labor organization, excluding the Russians, may develop from this forthcoming conference.

In explanation of his stand, Mr. Deakin said that last November the executive bureau of the WFTU decided to hold its next meeting before the end of February and to hold a conference of the trades secretariat not later than the middle of January.

"Both these decisions seem," said Mr. Deakin, "are now to be ignored following discussions between the secretary general and representatives of the All-Central Council of Soviet Unions."

According to Mr. Deakin, there was a majority in the executive bureau desirous of holding these meetings and "it was only when the Soviet representatives refused to attend that the others changed their opinion."

"If," therefore, the position is now that the WFTU is to be merely a political body dealing only with those questions acceptable to the U.S.S.R., we know where we stand," he continued. "In other words, if there is to be a line-up of those national centers accepting the policy laid down by the Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) against those who don't, then this decision must be regarded as a reversal of the policy laid down by the London and Paris conferences of the WFTU which sought to establish world trade union unity on the broadest possible basis of mutual help."

Employment In Automobile Industry Exceeded Record 1,000,000 In December

Washington, D. C.—Employment in the nation's automobile industry passed the 1,000,000 mark in December for the first time in history, the United States Employment Service reported.

Outlook for the industry, according to late market reports from key automotive centers, "appears very good," the USES survey disclosed.

The report showed that the 1929 production record of 5,400,000 cars "may be equaled or topped, but only if there is an even flow of materials, no serious labor-management difficulties, and conversion to new models does not severely disrupt production schedules."

The USES summary on the automotive industry, in part, says:

"Reporting plants expected to add about 20,000 workers between December and April, although many establishments are extremely reluctant to make any predictions in view of the scarcity of materials and anticipated conversions to new models.

"Most of the employment increase will occur in Michigan and three-fifths of the expansion requirements is in plants engaged in the manufacture and assembly of motor vehicles. Plants manufacturing passenger car bodies are expected to account for slightly more than one-fifth of the increase. Other segments of the industry will gain slightly or remain unchanged.

"On the basis of recent experience of the industry, between 30,000 and 38,000 workers will be required each month to meet replacement needs."

Employment Gained Stability In 1947; BLS Reports Decline In Separation Rate

Washington, D. C.—Data prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the month of November reflected the growing stability in employment in industry during the year 1947.

In its regular monthly release, the BLS reported that both quit and layoff rates declined in November, with total separations down from 50 to 40 per 1,000 employes on the payrolls.

While labor turnover usually increases during the fourth quarter of the year, separation rates for each month of 1947 have been consistently below those for the comparable months of the preceding year. Much of the stability during 1947, compared with 1946, is attributable to the smoother flow of materials and production and to the "settling down" of veterans in regular jobs.

Both the quit and lay-off rates declined in November. Quits fell from a rate of 36 to 27 per 1,000 employes, the voluntary job shifting generally decreased during the pre-Christmas period. Lay-offs eased down to 8 per 1,000. While slightly above the level of November 1946, the rate was well below those of the prewar years.

With a reduction in the need for replacements, the hiring rate also dropped, from 58 per 1,000 in October to 47 in November. This was the lowest rate for any month in 1947 and for any November since 1941.

While declines in both hires and separations were general throughout the manufacturing industries, the rates dropped more sharply in the durable than in the nondurable goods division. Improved material supplies and a continued high level of demand were reflected in a significant decrease in the lay-off rate in the durable goods industries as a whole. For the nondurable, however, the lay-off rate rose somewhat as a result of seasonal declines in activity in the food, tobacco, and apparel industry groups. Voluntary job changing decreased in about the same proportion in the hard and soft goods divisions.

AFL TELEGRAPHERS' UNION WINS 8-CENT RAISE IN PAY

Washington, D. C.—Adolph Brungs, president of the Western Union Division of the AFL's Commercial Telegraphers' Union, announced the settlement of its wage dispute with the Western Union Company.

Union members voted to ratify an 8-cent wage increase offered by the company. Mr. Brungs said that more than the necessary two-thirds of the union's membership voted for the settlement at local meetings held throughout the country.

Ratification by the union brought to an end the threats of a nation-wide strike which appeared imminent last December, but which was averted when the company agreed at the last minute to submit the issue to a fact-finding panel. Final agreement on the wage question was reached by the parties prior to action by the panel.

The settlement, effective April 1, affects about 40,000 employes in the bargaining unit, which excludes New York City.

HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON LABOR EXTENSION SERVICE

Washington, D. C.—Hearings on S. 1290 proposing the establishment of a labor extension service are scheduled to begin on February 16 before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee of Labor and Public Welfare.

The bill, which will establish a labor educational service similar to the agricultural extension service, has the complete backing of the American Federation of Labor.

The 66th annual convention of the AFL went on record in favor of the bill when it passed a resolution asking for "the immediate establishment of a labor extension service to provide research, information and extension services to workers throughout the nation."

BALTIMORE PRINTERS WIN RAISE WITHOUT CONTRACT

Baltimore.—Charles V. Brannock, president of Local 12 of the AFL's International Typographical Union, announced that printers have won a wage increase of 22 cents an hour with newspaper publishers here.

Brannock said no contract was signed and there was no commitment as to the duration of the raise or any other matter.

The wage boost granted raises the pay scale to $2.27 an hour for day employes, $2.40 for night workers, and $2.54 for third-shift workers.

FEDERAL JOBS SHOW DECLINE OVER NATION

Washington, D. C.—Civil Service Commission reported Federal employment in Washington is on the increase, with 27 agencies having added to their personnel during December.

The employment total for Washington as of Jan. 1 was 195,766, a net increase of 270 over Dec. 1 totals. The increase here is in contrast with personnel reductions outside Washington.

LIVESTOCK MARKETS FEEL PRICE SLUMP

Chicago.—One of the biggest price breaks in the history of the livestock trade swept the big cattle stockyards here.

Hogs sank from $1 to $4 lower than last week's closing levels, which were $1.50 to $3 lower than those of the week before.

Declining prices last week prompted packers to unload 30 percent more hogs at the 12 major markets and as a result the price tumbled. Even at the drastically lower prices, 4000 hogs went unsold at Chicago and were held over.

Few 'T-H' Cases Have Reached NLRB; Board Tied Up By Wagner Act Disputes

Washington, D. C.—Relatively few cases arising out of the Taft-Hartley law have reached the National Labor Relations Board itself for final decision.

This fact was brought out in an announcement by the NLRB that a panel system has been adopted by the board in an effort to expedite clearance of the backlog of cases awaiting action.

At the end of January, 429 cases were awaiting decision, most of them filed under the original Wagner Act which was in effect prior to August 22, 1947.

Here is more evidence which will serve to refute the claims of proponents of the new law that it has ushered in an era of peace in labor-management relations. The truth is that for all practical purposes, as attested to by the NLRB announcement, the administration of the law has as yet not even been tested to any important degree. The board is still struggling to clear its docket of cases arising under the Wagner Act.

Under the board's new system, five rotating panels have been created. Each panel consists of 3 board members and holds a session once a week. The full board continues to meet at least twice a week to pass upon cases involving important or novel policy questions.

The action setting up the panel system was taken under the authority of a provision of the Taft-Hartley law which says: "The board is authorized to delegate to any group of three or more members any or all of the powers which it may itself exercise."

The system has been in operation since early January, during which month the board handled 134 cases, as compared with 94 decisions issued in December.

Union Shop Vote 'Red Tape' Is Exposed By A F L Union

New York City.—David Sullivan, president of Local 32-B of the AFL's Building Service Employes International Union, lashed out at the "silliness" of the provision of the Taft-Tartley law which requires an election among employes before a union is permitted to bargain for a union shop.

Announcing that petitions have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board covering approximately 900 buildings here, Sullivan warned that this is only the beginning of a long series of time-consuming, money-wasting elections which will soon be required to be conducted among employes of about 3,500 additional buildings, contracts for which expire in April.

Commenting upon the situation, Mr. Sullivan said:

"The experience of Local 32B in attempting to comply with the provisions of the Taft-Hartley law demonstrates its absurdity in a stabilized industry like ours. All the contracts involved have provided for a closed shop since about 1934. Both the owner associations and the individual owners have readily agreed to the union shop provision. The matter came up for discussion in the past. It worked to everybody's satisfaction. This time the union is compelled to secure signed authorizations to its petition. Instead of the required 30 percent, we secured just about 100 percent.

"Then our attorneys were compelled to prepare petitions for each separate building, except for those in the Midtown Realty Owners Association which agreed to form one unit. The petition was in quintuplicate and required hundreds of hours of clerical work. Each owner is being required to execute new sets of forms, and to produce payroll records, etc. The election will require at an elaborate set-up of ballots, talliers, clerks, etc. Then, we will all wait for the results and certification of elections, and all the ripamarole that that involves.

"We are informed that so far as the board is concerned, it is going to take considerable time even to docket our cases, let alone bring them to a conclusion. In the meantime, negotiations are stalled with no contract in existence, with the ever-present danger of a flare-up resulting in work stoppages. If an agreement is finally reached, it will undoubtedly require retroactive pay increases for the period that this bureaucratic juggernaut lumbers along."

BUILDING TRADES UNIT HOLDS RECORD CONTRACTS

Baltimore.—The AFL Building Trades Council announced it has contracts with 532 general and subcontractors in this area, the highest number of contracts in the council's 11-year history.

The announcement was made by F. C. Ellis, who was recently reelected to a new 3-year term as president of the council.

Other officers who were elected are: Frank Bonadio, of the Sheet Metal Workers, vice president; William Ingerfritz, of the Painters Union, recording secretary; Hamilton C. Dubreuil, of the Steamfitters Union, treasurer.

MORE AFL UNIONS FILE NON-COMMUNIST OATHS

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board reported that 1,461 international, and 2,776 local unions were in full compliance with the Communist-affidavit requirements of the Taft-Hartley law as of January 31, 1948.

Of this number 79 of the international and 2,126 of the local unions are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The number of AFL officers involved, according to the NLRB report, are 972 at the national and international level, and 19,441 representing various local affiliates.

Labor's National Political League Swings Into Action

Ohio Federation Sets Up Political Arm; Stresses Decisive Role of AFL Members

Columbus, Ohio—The most ambitious political program ever undertaken by labor in Ohio took definite shape here as more than 2,000 representatives of the American Federation of Labor met to set up machinery for the Ohio Federation of Labor's Educational and Political League.

Phil Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, was named secretary of the new organization. Michael J. Lyden, president of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, was named state-wide chairman, and the 7 vice-presidents of the federation will serve as vice-chairmen.

Hannah opened the meeting by outlining the need for the establishment of Labor's Educational and Political League, and later submitted a declaration of principles and plan of activities for the state.

In his address he denounced a third-party movement in America, and advised AFL members to repudiate it.

"Henry Wallace and his third party are betraying the liberal cause in America, and playing into the hands of reactionary and Tory elements," he declared.

Lyden told the meeting that Ohio AFL organizations were taking a leading part in the nation-wide political program, and pledged that workers in this state would show a demonstration of voting strength next fall never before witnessed.

The statement of principles and methods of operation adopted at the meeting emphasized the great importance to every AFL member in making the political drive an outstanding success. The statement said in part:

"It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the men and women who make up the mass membership of the American Federation of Labor in Ohio recognize the tremendous importance of their individual status. Each member should resolve himself or herself into a committee of one to support the program—for his own welfare and for the welfare of all working people in the state and nation.

"The charge has been erroneously made that a rank-and-file member of labor is not interested in the onslaught against his union; that he has no confidence in his duly elected officers; that he is on the side of the clubbings' in Congress and the General Assembly.

"Through the program of Labor's Educational and Political League he can soundly repudiate these evil insinuations. He can demonstrate, once and for all, his loyalty to the basic principles of trade unionism, and to the organizations which have, through unified action, brought to the workingman and his family a better standard of living, and the full dignity to which they are so rightfully entitled."

Union Wins Right to Approve Merit Wage Adjustments Under Its Contract

Cincinnati. — The AFL's Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union won the right to pass upon merit raises given individual employes by an employer who has a collective bargaining contract with the union.

This was the conclusion reached by the Circuit Court of Appeals in a decision handed down here.

The court voted 2 to 1 to enforce an order issued a year and a half ago by the National Labor Relations Board, which held found J. H. Allison & Co., of Chattanooga, Tenn., guilty of refusing to bargain with the union. Refusal to bargain over wages, hours and working conditions is an unfair labor practice, both under the old Wagner act and the new Taft-Hartley act.

The board had ordered the company to grant no more merit raises "without prior consultation with the union," and to provide information concerning the basis upon which merit raises already granted. The board then had asked the Court of Appeals to enforce the order.

The court finally announced its decision, with one judge dissenting. The majority opinion said, "The labeling of a wage increase as a gratuity does not obviate the fact that a gratuitous increase on the basis of merit does, in reality, effect changes in rates of pay and wages, which are by the statute the subject of collective bargaining."

Construction Seasonal Drop Continues; Cost Quarter-Million Jobs Since Sept.

Washington, D. C. — Construction activity continued to decline during January but was still 31 percent above the level recorded for January 1946, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In terms of employment, the number of workers employed for the month represented a drop of 143,000 below the December total. Since September, the peak employment month for the industry, employment have dropped over 250,000 employes.

Expenditures for construction in January totaled $1,261,000,000, a drop of $91,000,000 from the December figure.

New work on privately financed nonfarm housing accounted for about 58 percent of all private construction expenditures and employment, despite an 8 percent drop below the December level. Activity in the new home field showed an increase of 70 percent over last year. In contrast to this improvement, expenditures for nonresidential building, financed privately, declined slightly to about the same level as prevailed in January 1946.

The dollar volume of publicly financed construction, at $207 million in January, constituted only a 4 percent drop from December, since most types of public work either maintained the December level of expenditures or declined but slightly. The exception was educational building. Expenditures in this category have been rising slowly since May 1947, and at $33 million this January, were more than double expenditures for January a year ago.

The effect of the severe winter weather on construction activity has been most noticeable on highway work, especially in December. Expenditures for this work dropped steeply from $110 million in November to the revised December estimate of $60 million. Preliminary indications are that road building was hampered still further by continued bad weather in January, when expenditures dropped to $55 million.

N. Y. TUGBOAT CREWMEN WIN 10-CENT PAY BOOST

New York.—New York harbor tugboat crewmen voted 1,254 to 410 to accept a 10-cent-per-hour wage increase offered by the operators, a union spokesman announced.

Capt. William Bradley, president of Local 333, Marine Division of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association, announced the referendum results. He said he expected a new contract would be signed, retroactive to January 1.

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO REGISTER ALL AFL VOTERS

St. Louis.—Local units of the American Federation of Labor here inaugurated a campaign to make sure their 125,000 members are registered to vote in the coming 1948 elections.

As a special feature of the drive for 100 percent registration, which is the fundamental step in the successful operation of any political action campaign, the unions plan to offer automobile transportation as a service to those members who have not yet registered to vote.

Jos. D. Keenan Named To High League Post; Funds Drive On

Washington, D. C.—Labor's League for Political Education has swung into action on four fronts, it was announced.

1—Appointment of Joseph D. Keenan, as assistant to the executive officers of the league, was announced by National Chairman William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany. Mr. Keenan, Secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, served during the war as Vice Chairman of the War Production Board and later as labor adviser to Gen. Clay in the American-occupied zone of Germany. An energetic organizer, he will undertake the task of setting up the American Federation of Labor's political arm as a powerful force in the 1948 campaign.

2—Mr. Green and Mr. Meany issued an appeal to all affiliated unions to begin a concerted drive among their members for voluntary contributions of $1 or more to finance the league's activities.

3—National headquarters for the league will be opened on March 1 at 1523 H St. N.W., Washington, D. C., a historic site facing the White House on Lafayette Park.

4—A call was sent out for a national conference on March 10 at the Washington Hotel of the Presidents of all State Federations of Labor. The Executive Administrative Committee, which is scheduled to meet in Washington on March 9, will step over the conference with the state representatives. The purpose of this meeting is to map perfect teamwork between the league's national organization and the state branches to be set up under the State Federations of Labor.

A number of state organizations, especially those where primary elections are to be held early, already have started functioning on the political front, Mr. Green said.

He disclosed that a subcommittee of the league's Administrative Committee is now canvassing the field for candidates for the job of executive director of ILPE. The recommendations will be submitted to the Administrative Committee at the March 9 meeting and it is likely that a choice will be made and announced at that time.

AFL'S MEAT CUTTERS WIN 9-CENT PAY HIKE

Chicago.—The AFL's Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of America announced the negotiation of a new 9-cent wage increase for 15,000 employes of the Armour and Swift companies.

The increase, which is retroactive to January 12, was announced by Earl W. Jimerson, union president, and Patrick E. Gorman, secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Gorman predicted that similar increases would be granted to 150,000 AFL-represented employes of the Wilson, Cudahy, Morrell companies and other independent meat-packing companies.

Mr. Jimerson reported that the 9-cent increase had been unanimously accepted frmm the companies by union delegates who met here for the past three days and who represent the AFL union's locals throughout the country.

The old basic rate for male common labor in most metropolitan cities was $1.02 an hour. In Chicago this is now raised to $1.11 an hour. Counting fringe benefits, union officials estimated that the metropolitan common-labor rate of hour pay now amounted to $1.19 or $1.20.

The basic maximum pay for skilled workers under new scale amounts to from $1.60 to $1.64 an hour. Counting fringe benefits the worker's hourly earnings would be $1.68 to $1.93. The old basic scale for $1.50 to $1.55.

AFL OFFICIAL NAMED FOR HIGH PA. STATE LABOR POST

Harrisburg, Pa.—John J. Burns, secretary-treasurer of Local 491 of the AFL's Teamsters Union, was appointed to the $7,000 post as deputy secretary of labor and industry by Governor James H. Duff.

Burns, who is 44, will succeed David Williams of Harrisburg, who resigned from the state service.

CHEMICAL WORKERS WIN UNION SHOP ELECTION

Buffalo, N. Y.—The AFL's International Chemical Workers Union voted decisively in favor of the union shop in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board among employes of the Norwich Pharmacal Company.

The vote was 242 to 5 in favor of the union's negotiating a union shop with the company.

GREEN ENDORSES NATIONAL SECURITY WEEK OBSERVANCE

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green endorsed the observance of National Security Week sponsored by the Reserve Officers Association.

Green said in a letter to the Reserve Officers Association that he considered it a "most valuable and patriotic service" to arouse the nation "to the need for national security, national safety and for the protection of the principles of freedom, liberty and democracy."

The Right to VOTE Is Your Priceless Heritage

Don't Fail to Use It

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1948

WILLIAM GREEN, President — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Taft-Hartley Law Perverts and Denies Hard-Won Rights of Labor, Says Woll

New York City.—The determined opposition of labor to the Taft-Hartley law grew out of the conviction that it embodies "a perversion and denial of collective bargaining rights" finally won by labor after years of effort, declared Matthew Woll, AFL executive council member.

Mr. Woll's statement was contained in the second of 6 articles on the general topic, "Labor and the Law," which are being published monthly by the Workers Education Bureau of America.

Summarizing labor's basic case against the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Woll declared that the law early

"Discourages the formation of unions by making organization difficult.

"Discourages free collective bargaining by increasing dependence on litigation and legal processes.

"Nullifies the spirit and intent of the Wagner Act by weakening the position of workers in the bargaining relationship with their employers."

While warning that it is too early to appraise the full impact of the law on labor-management relations, Mr. Woll article asserted that "it is certain that labor relations have deteriorated."

Mr. Woll hit at the use of strike statistics as a means of proving the effectiveness of the law. He said:

"A decline in man-days lost due to strikes may or may not be due to the operation of a law. Strike statistics are unreliable guides to measure the success of any law in promoting peaceful labor-management relations, particularly on a short-term basis."

The AFL leader charged the Taft-Hartley law reverses the position, traditionally taken by labor boards and management representatives, that government's role in the collective bargaining process is to facilitate bargaining.

"The Wagner Act placed labor at a reasonable parity with management by ensuring that obstacles and pressures operating to weaken labor's bargaining relationship were removed. It strengthened unions only at the point of recognizing their bargaining rights when they represented a majority of the employes. The Taft-Hartley amendments, however, leave only the hollow shell of the bargaining relationship, by setting up restrictions and limitations which operate to weaken and hamstring the union at every turn.

"The creation of the Wagner Act conceived of governmental agencies as facilitators in the collective bargaining process. The Taft-Hartley amendments establish governmental agencies as fascist bureaucracies with the power to police unions and the bargaining process than government agencies have any other aspect of American life."

AFL Council Fully Endorses 1948 Union-Industries Show

Miami.—The AFL Executive Council pledged its support to the Union-Industries Show to be held in Milwaukee, Wis., from May 12-16, 1948, under the auspices of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

The exposition will be a special feature of "Union Label Week," observance of which was authorized by the 66th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held last October in San Francisco.

The main purpose of the special celebration during the designated period, as declared in the AFL convention resolution, is to "acquaint the citizens of the United States and Canada with the program and policy of the American Federation of Labor with respect to labor-management-consumer relations."

In its endorsement of the Union-Industries Show, which is under the directorship of E. P. Marsh, veteran publicity man of the Union Label Trades Department, the Executive Council declared:

"This exhibition is a place where union label products and a demonstration of union services—in both of which we taken great pride. To this show will come many thousands of the members and friends of the organized labor movement, women's auxiliaries of labor, farmers, business men—all who are interested in the welfare of the nation.

"The American Federation of Labor is actively cooperating and participating in the Union-Industries Show which provides a real opportunity for thousands to better understand why union-made goods are the last word in quality and craftsmanship. These Union-Industries Shows perform a very definite service to America and to our economic system by making those who attend more label-conscious than ever before, which means they will be more determined than ever to purchase only those well earned dollars for goods produced and services performed under union conditions. They assure reasonable profits, fair standards of life."

In connection with the observance of "Union Label Week" and the opening of the Union-Industries Show, the fourth convention of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor will also be held in Milwaukee.

Green Hits Taft's Claim That Labor Law Has Rid Union Movement of Communists

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green rapped Senator Ray Conner, A. Taft for his assertion that the Taft-Hartley law has driven Communists out of the American labor movement and caused them to seek refuge in Canada.

Terming Taft's fable a "classic" among all the "far-fetched flights of imagination," Mr. Green charged that the law actually provides guaranteed job security for Communists in this country and gives them "legal protection to carry on their nefarious activities without fear of reprisal."

Mr. Green cited the provision of the Taft-Hartley law which provides that when a union obtains a union shop agreement with an employer, it can demand the discharge of an employe for one reason only—failure to pay dues.

This section of the law operates to prevent a union from taking effective disciplinary action against any Communist in its ranks, Mr. Green said. The AFL leader in his statement declared:

"After all the far-fetched flights of imagination, Senator Robert A. Taft's latest effort to defend Taft-Hartley Act drive against Communists in the labor movement out of the United States into Canada should become a classic.

"It would take a gifted contortionist to do justice to the performance of Senator from Ohio playing a tune on the Taft-Hartley piccolo to lure the Com-rats out of American jobs into the Canadian north woods.

"As one whose duties make it imperative to keep a close watch on the activities of Communists in the labor movement, I can say categorically that I do not know and have not heard a single one who has emigrated to Canada recently.

"Actually, the Taft-Hartley act will provide in practice guaranteed job security for Communists in this country. That infamous law will prevent a union operating under a valid union shop agreement from taking disciplinary action against any Communist in its ranks. The law specifically provides that unions can obtain a union-shop agreement with an employer, but can demand the discharge of an employe for one reason only—nonpayment of dues.

"Far from driving the Communists out of the labor movement and out of the country, the Taft-Hartley Act gives them legal protection to carry on their nefarious activities without fear of reprisal."

Contractors Approve Pact To Settle Building Disputes

OK Arbitration Plans Presented by AFL's Building Trades

Dallas, Texas.—The Associated General Contractors of America approved the establishment of a national joint board for the settlement of jurisdictional disputes arising in the building and construction industry.

The plan was presented to the 29th annual convention of the contractors' group by Richard Gray, president of the AFL's Building and Construction Trades Department.

Ratification by the AFL, which is the only step required before the establishment of the board, is expected to be accomplished by the Building and Construction Trades Department on March 8.

Announcing upon the plan, Mr. Gray declared it is "the first fully comprehensive and thoroughly implemented charter for self-government, dealing with a specific problem of industrial relations, in any major basic industry."

Robert N. Denham, NLRB general counsel, said the plan would avoid a tremendous advantage to employers, employes and the public since the alternative would be for the labor board to assume construction disputes.

The plan will affect 19 unions affiliated with the AFL and about 1,500,000 building trades workers.

The core of the agreement is the creation of a national joint board for settling disputes in the building and construction industry.

The board would consist of an impartial chairman, two persons named by the AFL building trades unions and one by the specialty contractors.

The two labor and industry members of the joint board would be chosen for incidental service from a pool of 24—12 from each side. For each case the impartial chairman would select his 4 colleagues from pool members whose organizations were not involved. They would sit with him and render a decision.

The impartial chairman is to be selected by a board of trustees consisting of 3 members, 4 from industry and 4 named by the unions.

The first consideration of a dispute will be by the trustees. They will ascertain if the dispute has been within the subject of a previous "decision of record" or of a "national agreement" procedure.

This section was designed to keep the top-segment of the machinery the main channel for settling disputes in the building industry on jurisdictional disputes.

Discussing the possibility of an employment increase in the aircraft industry last year in the face of expanded orders for military aircraft, the summary said any increase, if it develops, is still "many months away."

AFL's Meat Cutters Union Wins Wage Increase From Big Retail Food Chains

Philadelphia. — A determined and militant membership gained substantial reward in new contracts negotiated with the "Big Four" retail food chains by the Retail Joint Council of the AFL's Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

More than 2,700 members in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware will benefit as the result of the victory ending three months of conferences with executives of the Baltimore Markets, Food Fair Stores, the A & P and the American Stores.

First success came with agreement by the Baltimore Markets for increases of from $5 to $8 weekly and reclassification of the bases, overtime and holiday provisions of the contract. The Baltimore agreement, reached only a few hours a special meeting of its employes, originally called for action on a strike to obtain the union's demands.

A meeting of Food Fair employes, also originally scheduled to discuss on strike action, turned into a ratification meeting as that store fell in line to the agreement reached with the Baltimore Markets. The union's victory was made complete as the American Stores and the A & P agreed to the same terms.

The new contracts with the "Big Four," Leon H. Schachter, president of the Retail Joint Council, announced, will be the pattern for new agreements with other food chains, thus benefiting thousands more of the union's membership.

Schachter also disclosed union plans of cooperation had been given company representatives to protect the consumer.

"No unionist desired benefits to be gained by him, except in the form of increased food prices," he said.

"We, ourselves, have put our demands to a minimum, seeking only increases necessary to bring our income to the level described by the government as a minimum decent budget," foregoing, in the present inflationary situation, anything like the concomitantly improving standard of living that is the goal and birthright of every American citizen.

"It is only any possibility of the increases in the new contract necessitating price increases, our members will cooperate 100 percent with the food industry, the government, efficiency, economical store practices, elimination of waste and maintenance of low sales costs."

Arbitration Award Grants 7½ Average Wage Increase to 45,000 ILGWU Workers

New York City.—Over 45,000 members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union engaged here in the manufacture of women's coats and suits received wage increases averaging from $3 to $7 a week.

The boost was awarded by Sol A. Rosenblatt, impartial chairman of the industry, which has been free of strikes for 21 years through operation of the impartial arbitration machinery set up by the union and employers.

Mr. Rosenblatt's award represents an average of 7½ percent for the union members, about 60 percent of whom are paid on a piece-work basis. On the piece workers will receive an increase of $5 a week.

The largest increase for week workers, $7, will go to cutters, operators, pressers, finishers and sample tailors. All work a 35-hour week. The old minimum for cutters was $83; for operators, pressers and sample tailors, $76, and finishers, $70.

Examiners will receive an increase of $6 over their old minimum of $68.50; finishers' helpers an increase of $5 over the former minimum of $58 and floor help $3 above the former range of $43.50 to $46.50. Union officials added that virtually all the workers were now receiving wages well above the minimum set by law, that would benefit by the increases.

Mr. Rosenblatt declared the increases become effective this week. He denied a union request that they be made retroactive to December 6, when the union asked the three associations for a 15 percent wage rise.

The impartial chairman said the pay rise was designed to compensate for the increased cost of living since December 15, 1946, when an identical increase was awarded by Mr. Rosenblatt's predecessor, Charles Poletti.

The associations were represented in a Industrial Council of Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers, headed by Charles Karp, and the Industrial Dress Garment Association, headed by Joseph Sorin, and the Infants' and Children's Coat Association, headed by Charles Karp.

Spokesmen for the ILGWU and the associations hailed the decision and the terms of the award despite their differing opinions as to its justice.

Woll Asks AFL Membership To Aid Drive For Children

New York City.—Matthew Woll, AFL executive council member and president of the United Appeal for Human Rights, called upon the entire AFL membership for the current nation-wide campaign of American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children.

The AOA-UNAC drive is seeking to raise $60,000,000 for the relief of hungry children and expectant mothers in the countries devastated by the war lands.

In a letter addressed to all national and international unions, state federations and central labor unions, Mr. Woll called for vigorous support for this urgent, life-saving appeal, which will be made to the American public for the relief of the suffering and destitute children and adults in the war-devastated lands throughout the world.

Pointing out that the members of the American Federation of Labor "have ever been in the forefront of humanitarian causes" and that in the National War Fund campaigns, Mr. Woll went on to say, "I urge you and your membership to lend assistance to the present drive of the American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children by devoting your time and efforts generously."

Mr. Woll said that in sending food and clothing "in the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars to certain countries in Europe" during 1947, the membership of the American Federation of Labor are "eagerly responding to the appeals of the representatives of the trade unions" in other lands today.

Campaigning under the slogan of the "Crusade for Children" and with the slogan, "Save a Child, Save the Future," American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children has been represented by 25 private American foreign assistance agencies and the remaining share in the world-wide United Nations Appeal for Children The Labor League for Human Rights, through its Foreign Relief Program, is one of the 25 participating agencies.

Federal Court Grants First Judgment For Violation of Public Contracts Act

Denver, Colo.—In the first enforcement case under the Public Contracts Act, a federal court issued a judgment against a manufacturer here for violation of the act's minimum wages for the illegal employment of a 16-year-old employe.

The court ordered the Wagner Manufacturing Company to pay the sum of $950 to the federal government for the amount was found due by the Office of Public Contracts.

The case grew out of the firm's performance on two government contracts, for $35,000 and $15,000, for the fabrication of waterproof bedding rolls for the Army Quartermaster. Inspection of the establishment by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the U. S. Department of Labor revealed that a boy under 18 years of age had been employed in violation of the Public Contracts Act for a total of 96 days.

The act requires that payment of $10 for each day of such illegal employment be made to the government as liquidated damages. The firm refused to make payment, both on the grounds of the child labor and the size of the penalty.

Under the act, the Wagner case was referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

The secretary then referred the case to the U. S. Attorney's office, which filed action against the firm in U. S. District Court in Denver, Colorado, where judgment was entered against the firm on the basis of the secretary's findings.

Treasury Department Will Launch New Security Loan Drive to Fight Inflation

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder announced a new campaign to "promote savings and fight inflation" will commence on April 15 and continue through the end of June.

Under the new campaign, which will supplement the regular payroll savings plan, a minimum sale quota for sale of series E Savings Bonds will be established.

Mr. Snyder said that the Treasury's new specific goal in connection with the campaign were to encourage individuals to "save systematically for themselves through savings, and by so doing to fight inflation."

"These purposes are interlocking," he declared. "The fight against inflation will serve the welfare of the country."

The American Federation of Labor has consistently supported the government in all of its campaigns to promote thrift among the workers of the United States.

The 60th annual convention of the AFL in 1940 issued a report to the executive council endorsing the continuance on a voluntary basis of the Treasury Department's payroll savings plan for the purchase of U. S. Savings Bonds.

The council report pointed out that there was abundant evidence of the degree to which wage earners learned to appreciate the benefits of systematic thrift through experience with the payroll plan.

AFL President William Green has extolled the practice of thrift and the virtue "which should be collectively and individually practiced by all workmen and women everywhere."

"Those who practice thrift will be the direct beneficiaries of the pursuit of that virtue," Mr. Green declared. "A form of government will be strengthened and perpetuated which encourages extended as it by those who invest in U. S. Savings Bonds."

Educational and Political Campaign Held Way to Fight Anti-Labor Attitude

Atlanta.—Over 200 AFL representatives here heard various speakers urge greater emphasis that when tion of union members and the general public as the best means of combating restrictive anti-labor legislation.

These views were expressed at an institute, sponsored by the Georgia Workers Education Service, called for the purpose of considering strategy for the building of union strength.

George Googe, AFL director of organization in the Southeast, told the organizing drives had been retarded 75 percent by the Taft-Hartley law restrictions on union activity. Of equal importance, he said, is the need the anti-labor psychology prevailing in southern communities as a result of to labor activity, and called for a vigorous educational and political campaign to counter this trend.

Calling for greater educational opportunities for union members, Caesar Lucia, representing the United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, recalled the days when it was necessary for unions to gain recognition through bitter struggles on the picket line. He predicted that when the millions of workers who had got their first taste of unionism through struggle, "many of whom are cardcarriers, not militant," realized the economic benefits of unions, they would fight to a finish to protect their organizations.

John W. Fleeney, Atlanta field leader for the Georgia Workers Education Service, outlined the educational projects exhibited by big business to "sell the American economy" of the union. He said:

"Big business is in the saddle for the present. They have destroyed labor's bargaining power, cut labor's wages down; and reaped profits with increasing speed. They have a big press ready to do their bidding. But, as the "real masters" their lust for profits is wrecking the economy. Their irresponsibility to the public welfare is evident in the things they do. the people will realize that a healthy economy requires collective bargaining and strong unions."

TAFT-HARTLEY LAW SEEN DESTROYING LABOR UNIONS

Newark, N. J.—Six months experience under the Taft-Hartley law has convinced trade unions they cannot live under the statute, chairman Lewis M. Herrmann, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Press of America, declared:

Speaking at a forum here for labor union members, Herrmann said:

"The Taft-Hartley law may well succeed in destroying the trade union movement in America temporarily, in so doing it will unquestionably pull down the pillars of democracy together with it, because the organized labor movement in this country has been the backbone upon which this Republic has prospered."

FEDERAL LABOR UNIONS WIN BACK PAY AWARD

Toledo, Ohio.—William F. Sturm, AFL organizer, reported the successful conclusion of negotiations with the Interlake Iron Corporation providing for awards of back pay to members of AFL federal labor unions located here and in Erie, Pa.

AFL members affected by the agreement received a retroactive payment of 5 cents per hour for a 12-month period ending September 15, 1946.

The settlement made by the company amounted to $124,516 to Toledo and $55,200 to members in Erie.

LABOR TO BE CONSULTED ON MATERIAL ALLOCATIONS

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Commerce Harriman's new department will invite labor unions to present their views on voluntary plans being worked out for the allocation of scarce materials, such as steel, among the industries the government considered most essential.

Congress declined instead to let the Commerce Department try...to work out industry-wide agreements divvying up supplies according to needs.

40,000 WAR VETERANS GIVEN GI FARM LOANS

Washington, D. C.—The Veterans Administration announced the granting of 40,000 veterans of World War II received billions in GI farm loans through December 31, 1947.

It said a survey of loans granted from July through December showed that 48 percent of the veterans-farmers were producing cash crops for products as wheat, cotton, dairy products, livestock and poultry. Another 22 percent were operating general farms.

FENTON, ZANDER ELECTED BY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Washington, D. C.—Two AFL leaders are among the 14 trustees elected by the National Planning Association, an independent research organization devoted to planning for the best use of the nation's resources.

The AFL representatives are Frank P. Fenton, the AFL's International Representative, and Arnold Zander, president of the State, County, and Municipal Employes Union, affiliated with the AFL.

EFFECTIVE DATE FOR RENT INCREASES IS CHANGED

Washington, D. C.—Increases in rents effective on and after March 1 will be the effective date for landlords filed a petition for adjustment, Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods announced.

This is a change from the policy which took effect recently applies to petitions for increases authorized by the Office of Rent Control prior to the time the provision is filed in the regulations. Previously, the rent increase was effective from the date the official order authorizing a higher rent was issued by the area rent office.

MYERS NOW ASSOCIATED WITH CHILD LABOR UNIT

New York City.—James Myers has joined the staff of the National Child Labor Committee in the capacity of assistant secretary in charge of membership.

Mr. Myers, well-known in labor circles and in the cooperative movement, was formerly industrial relations secretary for the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

ROOSEVELT NAMED COUNSEL FOR UPHOLSTERERS' UNION

Philadelphia. — The AFL's Upholsterers' Union announced the appointment of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., as general counsel for the organization.

Sol B. Hoffman, president of the union, declared that the appointment of Roosevelt and an augmented legal staff was made necessary by the Taft-Hartley law which has greatly increased the number of legal proceedings involving unions.